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January 2006



Marietta Board of Lights and Water To Increase Water and Sewer Rates

Effective January 1, 2006 the Marietta Board of Lights and Water will increase their water and sewer rates five percent (5%). Almost half of this increase is due to increasing costs from our wholesale providers in water supply and wastewater treatment. The typical residential customer uses 7,000 gallons of water each month, and the sewer bill is also based on this usage. The new rates will increase the typical residential customer's bill by \$2.79 per month. The increase also provides for capital investments to rebuild an aging infrastructure. To learn more about the City's infrastructure improvement plan, visit www.mariettaga.gov/water to link to a description of current infrastructure

programs and other aspects of our Water Department's operations.

In addition to the increase, we have also changed our rate structure. Our new rate will include a minimum bill charge and then a flat per thousand-gallon charge. There are a couple of reasons for moving to a flat rate versus a declining block rate like we previously had. The flat rate will be easier for our customers to understand. Secondly, the flat rate promotes water conservation more so than a declining block rate structure. Conservation is necessary as water is one of our most precious resources. ⚡

SUBSCRIBE TO FREE CITY E-MAIL NEWS UPDATES

Since September, the City of Marietta's E-Newsletter (or *E-News*) has been morphing into a must-read posting of weekly events, news and happenings on the Square.

According to Matthew Daily, public information officer and spokesperson for the City of Marietta, "*E-News* is totally revamped. Easy to sign up for and sporting a new layout and look since November, the engaging electronic newsletter is posted on the city's Web site and e-mailed to subscribers on Fridays. Each edition features colorful photos as well as expanded and varied content – from stories highlighting the city's vehicle maintenance department and job postings to home tours, ground breakings and road improvements."

Readers get a quick overview of articles with a story description, abstract or synopsis and an option to go into greater depth with a simple click (of the computer mouse) on "more" that links them to the City's Web site for more details.

Subscribers also can select topics that interest them. Three general categories of news are e-mailed to them, depending on their areas of interest when they sign on for the free service, including:

City of Marietta E-News



- **E-Newsletter** featuring weekly news releases from the City of Marietta Public Information Office with a calendar of events (such as activities at the Marietta Square and notices of official public meetings);
- **Redevelopment Newsletter** updating the many redevelopment and construction projects and related activities citywide;
- And, **Emergency Notifications and Alerts** from the city notifying subscribers by e-mail of developments that require immediate attention.

"*E-News* helps us establish and maintain a dialogue with several thousand subscribers. It is just one more interactive tool to communicate with Marietta citizens," explains Daily, who notes that the strictest privacy policies are used to maintain subscriber lists. For example, subscriber information is not sold to organizations nor shared with other entities.

Subscribers can also opt in or opt out of receiving the free e-mailed newsletters or notices at any time. They can comment on articles appearing in *E-News* by contacting

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\$825,000 Raised for Strand Theater Restoration



With \$825,000 pledged to date for the historic Strand's restoration, about another \$1 million is needed soon to start construction in January, according to Earl Smith, chairman of the Friends of the Strand, Inc., and proprietor of E. Smith Heating & Air Conditioning.

"The Strand's grand opening in 2007 is doable, if we stay on track with our fundraising and can start construction in January 2006," explains Smith.

Strand supporters are in the midst of capital as well as grassroots campaigns to raise funds for an estimated \$5 million restoration. Area companies have been solicited for donations of \$50,000 on up. The capital campaign promises contributions over the \$1 million mark and land the endeavor on target.

In the midst of the capital campaign to raise \$3 million for construction, furnishings and equipment, the organization is offering dedications for \$1,000 per seat. A brass plate will commemorate each plush, art deco throne in memory or in honor of family, friends, local organizations or companies.

Several changes that capitalize on and maximize revitalization of downtown Marietta

have been made to the renovation's architectural plans. Project plans feature from 400 to 500 theatre seats and include a multi-use facility with a large reception area that accommodates special events and other functions.

In addition, Strand Theatre planners have designed a roof garden, off of the reception area, that provides sweeping views of the Marietta Square below. Both additions are designed to generate additional revenue through rentals all year.

As the original theatre had a soda fountain, planners today are proposing a full-service coffee bar that is open all year. And, an organ has been donated that, once installed, will take center stage for special performances.

All monies generated through seat dedications are used toward construction, furnishings and equipment. Friends of the Strand Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and contributions are tax deductible. ⚡

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editors at news@mariettaga.gov. And, if a story is particularly worth sending to a friend or business associate, it can be easily forwarded by the subscriber to the recipient.

"We're looking forward to getting feedback from subscribers. We want to know what is of interest to them, what their concerns are and how we may be of service to them," continues Daily. ⚡

Calendar of Events

Sunday, March 26, 2006

The Georgia Ballet "InMotion: Choreographer's Showcase"

Anderson Theater
3 and 6 p.m.

For tickets call (770) 528-0881 or visit
www.georgiaballet.org

Saturday, April 15, 2006

Love the Loop

Clean up the 120 Loop.

For more information call Keep

Marietta Beautiful at (770) 794-5606

Friday, April 28, 2006

Glover Park Evening Concert

Glover Park in the Marietta Square

8 p.m., Free

Call (770) 794-5601 for information

Sunday, April 30, 2006

Taste of Marietta

Marietta Square

Call (770) 429-1115 for information

Friday, May 5, 2006

Brown Bag Concert Series

Glover Park in the Marietta Square

Free

12 noon

Call (770) 794-5601 for information

May 6 and 7, 2006

May-retta Daze Arts & Crafts Festival

Glover Park in the Marietta Square
Free

Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Call (770) 794-5601 for information